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Message Text

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43
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 SAM-01 /071 W
---------- 051673
O 311121Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9170
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6852

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: KS, KN, US
SUBJECT: BACKGROUND TO TREE CUTTING

REF: (A) STATE 214776, (B) CINCUNC 310848Z AUG 76

1. INFORMATION REGARDING AUGUST 6 INITIAL KPA WARNING REGARDING TREE CUTTING REQUESTED REF A IS CONTAINED IN REF B. ANSWERS TO SECOND QUESTION REF A ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION IS TTHAT WE DID NOT PROVIDE OTHER SIDE SPECIFIC NOTICE OF TREE TRIMMING PLANS. WE DID HOWEVER PASS TWO GENERAL MESSAGES IN LATE JULY REGARDING CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS, WHICH ARE QUOTED BELOW.

2. FOLLOWING ROUTINE MONTHLY TELEPHONE MESSAGE WAS PASSED TO KPA/CPV SIDE AT JDO AT 1115 HOURS, 28 JULY 1976.

"TO SECRETARY MAC, KPA/CPV SIDE. YOUR SIDE IS INFORMED THAT NOT MORE THAN 150 PERSONNEL OF OUR SIDE ACCOMPANIED BY 11 DUMP TRUCKS; NINE BULLDOZERS; TWO ROAD GRADER; THREE WRECKERS; FIVE TRACTOR TRAILERS; FOUR ROLLERS; 14 TRUCKS; TWO CEMENT MIXERS; ONE EXCAVATOR; ONE ASPHALT FINISHER; ONE DITCHING AND TRENCHING MACHINE, TOWED; AND ONE PNEUMATIC TOOL AND COMPRESSOR OUTFIT WILL ENTER OUR PORTION OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS AREA AND THE JOINT SECURITY AREA DURING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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PERIOD 1 AUGUST 1976 TO 31 AUGUST 1976 FOR THE PURPOSE

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OF CONSTRUCTION, BEAUTIFYING THE AREA AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE. NORMAL IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISPLAYED ON ALL PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES. EXPLOSIVES MAY BE USED. FROM SECRETARY MAC, UNC SIDE"

B. THE NEXT DAY JULY 29, THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTARY TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO DPA/CPV SIDE WAS PASSED TO THE JDO AT 1807 HOURS: "TO SECRETARY MAC, KPA/CPV SIDE. YOUR SIDE IS INFORMED THAT NOT MORE THAN 50 ADDUBIONAL PERSONNEL OF OUR SIDE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE TRUCK; TWO SEDANS; ONE ASPHALT FINISHER; THREE ROLLERS AND 30 DUMP TRUCKS WILL ENTER OUR PORTION OF THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS AREA AND THE JOINT SECURITY AREA DURING THE PERIOD 1 AUGUST 1976 TO 31 AUGUST 1976 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION, BEAUTIFYING THE AREA NAD ROUTINE MAINTENANCE. NORMAL IDENTIFICATION WILL BE DISPLAYED ON ALL PERSONNEL AND VEHICLES. EXPLOSIVES MAY BE USED. FROM SECRETARY MAC, UNC DIDE."

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE TREE WAS ON THE UNC SIDE OF THE MDL. WHILE TREE TRIMMING WAS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE NOTICES, SUCH WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN THE JSA IN THE PAST ON THE BASIS OF THE ROUTINE TYPE NOTICE GIVEN ABOVE. BOTH SIDES HAVE REMOVED TREES EITHER IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION WORK OR FOR OTHER PURPOSES. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF PROTESTS OF SUCH ACTION BY EITHER SIDE IN THE PAST.
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Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
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